



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Southeast Region

Reply to

Attn. of: SERO Policy

March 19, 2003

Subject: Policy Memorandum 245.03-14: Policy Exception – Family Size and Income Determinations in the Child Nutrition Programs for Certain Military Families

To: All State Directors
National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program
Southeast Region

We are providing further clarification on the child nutrition policy for military households affected by deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This memorandum expands upon an earlier policy memorandum, 245.03-11, dated October 26, 2001, titled “Family Size and Income Determinations for Military Families.”

Under current policy, (please reference pages 32-33 of the Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual issued August 2001) household members who are temporarily absent from the household are considered household members, and their income is included with other household income when making an eligibility determination. Household members not living with the household for an extended period of time or living overseas are not included as members of the household for eligibility purposes, and only that portion of their income made available by them or on their behalf to the household is counted as income to the household.

However, for the duration of Operation Enduring Freedom, we are allowing an exception to current policy on determining household income and size for deployed service members. Therefore, only that portion of the deployed service member’s income made available by them or on their behalf to the household will be counted as income to the household. In addition, the deployed service member will continue to be considered a household member.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

CHARLIE SIMMONS
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs